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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Soviet Policy in Germany

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An informant in Berlin sends the following report of the ideological point of view now held among SED party functionaries, based on a conversation with a member of the directorate of a Berlin mass organization.

1. The latest Soviet note is regarded as the beginning of a great diplomatic peace offensive aiming "to oblige the Western powers continuously to parry the Eastern proposals", and thereby, first, to put them in the wrong before world public opinion, and, second, to deepen the cleft between the United States on one hand and France and England on the other. However, "Fruit does not ripen in a day." Vietnam is indicated as the next stage. The object: to add to world uncertainty about Soviet policy and intentions, create fresh political uneasiness, and split the Western powers internally on questions of policy.
2. On the subject of the European Defense Council (EDC) informant was told: EDC equals war. That is, it will not in itself cause war, but the belief is openly held in Moscow that the world political constellation formed by EDC sooner or later will lead to war, and Moscow will be in danger of being dragged into it.
3. Two lines are currently being followed, both equally serious. One is the endeavor toward a gradual simultaneous rectification of world tensions. With the systematic strengthening of the military and economic potentials of the East bloc (in which the Soviet Zone is included).

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4. Internally the line of Soviet German brotherhood is to be followed further with the object of making the Soviet Zone Germans ready when the occasion arises for a brotherhood in arms. It was hoped it would be possible after the 17 Jun 53 to draw all the insecure elements out of the national (VEB) factories. On the contrary, new resistance centers are formed where the spirit of passive resistance through non-delivery and the like, daily takes greater hold. The situation in the country is in parts so strained that "open provocations" have to be reckoned with, which in given circumstances could break out in the immediate future.

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